A walk through Holy Week and Easter

This could be used alongside the film resources: <http://request.org.uk/restart/2017/06/05/bible-quest-holy-week/>

For still images to use with this activity visit: <http://www.freebibleimages.org/stories/?search=Easter>

The stations that I suggest are different from the traditional ‘Stations of the Cross’ but I have taken some familiar bible stories from Holy Week and Easter. You could use as many or as few as you think would work with your school.

Ideally, it would be good if you could set these stations out around a reasonably sized area in order for the pupils to get the feel of a journey or pilgrimage through the activity. It is also good if each of the stations is staffed – this person can either take on the role of a bible character who the children can interview or simply be there to guide the pupils through thinking about that particular part of the journey. If that is not possible then key questions posted around the stations are useful to keep the pupils on task and thinking about the journey as they go around. Also include a copy of the Bible story at each station. Music can also be used to create atmosphere.

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| Bible passage | Station | Key questions |
| Palm Sunday(Matthew 21:1-11)<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A1-11&version=NIVUK>  | Set the scene with a path covered in coats or scarves with palm leaves cut out of green paper on the side.You could have celebration music on in the background.Create a party atmosphere.Have the word hosanna cut out in speech bubbles on the palm leaves. | Why were the people shouting hosannas? (The meaning of the word hosanna is not completely clear but means something along the lines of: ‘save’ ‘saviour’ ‘save us now’)Why did Jesus come in on a donkey? (Sign of a king arriving in peace and to fulfil the prophecy from Zech. 9:9)Why do you think the people were so excited to see Jesus?Would you have been excited to see Jesus – why or why not? |
| Clearing of the Temple(Matt 21:12-17<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+21%3A12-17&version=NIVUK>  | Set up the area as if in chaos. Tipped over tables, if you have an animal cage have that opened on the floor.Have money tipped over. | Why would Jesus have done this?(This was a fulfilment of a prophecy Jeremiah 7:11. On another level Jesus was taking the authority over something that he saw as wrong and insulting to God)Do you think that it was right for Jesus to do this?What is the difference in out of control anger and ‘righteous anger’? |
| Anointing at Bethany(Matt 26:6-13)<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+26%3A+6-13&version=NIVUK>  | A sitting area set up with cushions and a low table.A very expensive looking bottle on the table to represent the perfume.  | Why would the woman pour the perfume over Jesus?Anointing the body or head with oil was a common practice with the Jews. (Ruth 3:3; Micah 6:15) Anointing the head with oil or ointment seems also to have been a mark of respect sometimes paid by a host to his guestsProphets and kings were anointed to their postIn the Old Testament a Deliverer is promised under the title of Messiah, or Anointed, (Psalms 2:2; Daniel 9:25,26)What does this tell you about what the woman thought about Jesus?Do you think it a waste? Why or why not?Is there anything or anyone that you would want to spend that money on? |
| Last Supper(Matt 26:17-30John 13:1-17)<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+26:17-30> and<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%2013:1-17>  | Set up a table ready for a meal – if possible set it up ready for the Passover meal but the table must at least have the ‘wine’ and the bread on it.Have a bowl and a towel ready for feet to be washed.If needs be have images around that make the link to the story of Moses and the Passover. | What were the significance of the bread and wine and the washing of the disciples’ feet by Jesus?The image of the servant king who came to dieTraditionally this last supper is thought to have taken place during the Passover meal – why could Jesus be seen as the Passover lamb?The perfect lamb, without blemish that was sacrificed as a forgiveness of our sins |
| Arrest /Trial/Denial(John 18)<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+18>  | Have this set up as a ‘dark’ area – it could include chains, a crown of thorns, a whip, a judge’s chair. | Think about how different people would feel during this part of the story:JesusThe High PriestThe Roman soldiers and Pontius Pilate PeterThe other disciples, including the womenWhy is this known as Good Friday? |
| Crucifixion (Matt 27:32-56)<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+27%3A32-56>  | You may feel that this station is best set up as reflective area – for ideas visit: <https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com/resources/61>  |  |
| Resurrection (Matt 28)<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28>  | If possible you could set up an Easter garden with an empty tomb – you might want to include Easter eggs that they children could share.Have a very celebratory atmosphere about this station. | Think about how different people would feel during this part of the story in contrast to how they felt on Good Friday:JesusThe High PriestThe Roman soldiers and Pontius Pilate PeterThe other disciples, including the womenHow do you think you would have felt if you had been there?Why do you think this is such an important day for Christians still today? |